

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY — DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242 (562) 940-2501



March 31, 2009

TO:

Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman

Supervisor Gloria Molina

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM:

Robert B. Taylor

Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT:

PROBATION DEPARTMENT MORATORIUM ON COLLECTION OF

SUPPORT COSTS FOR INCARCERATED MINORS

On March 24, 2009, the Board requested my Department to provide clarification regarding the moratorium issued relative to the collection of support costs for incarcerated minors.

This is to clarify that the Probation Department has issued a temporary moratorium on collection of support costs for incarcerated minors while it studies all aspects of the collection process. You may have received inquiries from constituents regarding the scope of that moratorium. The moratorium is defined as follows:

As of February 16, 2009, the Probation Department:

- Is not sending letters to parents or guardians demanding that they pay Juvenile Court ordered for support costs;
- Is not entering into installment agreements with parents or guardians who have been ordered by the court to pay support costs;
- Is not requesting default judgments from the Juvenile Court when parents do not respond to letters telling them to contact the Probation Department financial evaluator;
- · Is not filing default judgments with the Registrar-Recorder; and

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• Is not sending the Franchise Tax Board names of persons with judgments against them in order to intercept income tax refunds.

The following actions are continuing:

- As part of orientation, parents and guardians continue to be told that they may be held liable for the cost of support of their incarcerated minors;
- The Juvenile Court continues to order parents and guardians to pay support costs;
- The Probation Department is continuing to collect payments from parents and guardians who entered into agreements with the Probation Department for Juvenile Court ordered support prior to February 16, 2009;
- The Probation Department continues to accept collections from persons who are making payments on judgments;
- The Probation Department continues to accept payments resulting from judgment liens filed with the Registrar-Recorder prior to February 16, 2009; and
- The Probation Department continues to receive state income tax refund intercepts from judgments referred to the Franchise Tax Board prior to February 16, 2009.

If your office receives any additional inquiries or correspondence associated with this process, please refer them to our Probation Information Center at (866) 931-2222.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information, or your staff may contact David M. Davies, Chief Deputy, Probation at (562) 940-2511.

RBT:dn

c: Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors Robert Kalunian, Acting County Counsel